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Friday, 4 January 2013

Tony O'Shea

By email only: Tonyoshea@iinet.net.au

Dear Tony,

Thank you for your recent letter (13 December 2012). The activities you listed in the letter show that there was a good partnership with CFV in 2012, noting also that the IYC program of activities coordinated and funded by industry partners in 2012 did greatly support the State Federations, so that you could carry out IYC branded activities on your limited resources – good co-operation!

We also agree with the need for broad sector consultation in developing a national representative body, but we wanted to clarify that this is not a process to set up a a national co-operative representative body – it is a process to develop a national business council representing all forms of member owned businesses such as co-operatives, mutuals, credit unions, employee-owned enterprises. Therefore, we will need to consult with the full range of businesses in the broadest possible terms.

The founding partner organisations funding the early feasibility stages envisage that this will be a council comprised of businesses (their CEOs and possibly their Chairs) and wish the consultation to be with the intended stakeholders, the businesses. In terms of Victorian member-owned businesses, we look forward to the contribution of co-operative and mutual businesses including current members of CFV, for the purpose of ensuring the new entity meets the needs of the member-owned businesses sector as a whole. We also envisage a continuing open dialogue with state co-operative federations on the issues of general sector development and how they might be achieved going forward. It's in all our interests to share this important work.

On that subject we understand that discussions about the need to develop a separate peak national body for co-operative business development is ongoing and something that CA, the co-operatives and their state representatives bodies are grappling with. We wish you all the best in that important process and would like to indicate that we are very willing to offer any assistance or input in your discussions.

We wish you and the CFV Board a very happy New Year.

Yours in co-operation,

Greg Wall

Director

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